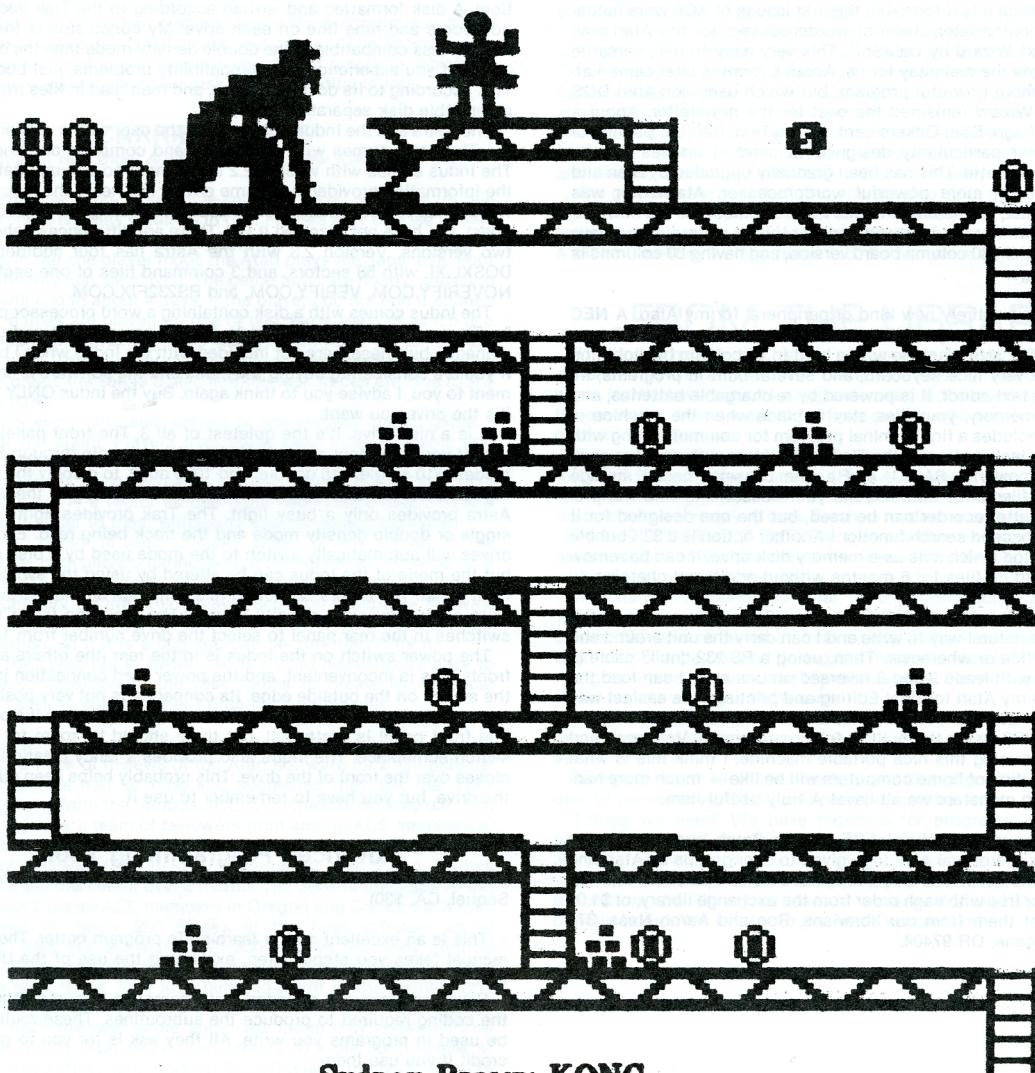


The logo for the Atari Computer Enthusiasts features a stylized 'A' composed of two thick, black, curved lines that meet at a point. To the right of this 'A' is the word 'ATARI' in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. Below 'ATARI' is the word 'COMPUTER' in a slightly smaller, bold, black, sans-serif font. To the right of 'COMPUTER' is the word 'ENTHUSIASTS' in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the logo, the address '3662 Vine Maple Dr. Eugene OR 97405' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The background of the entire image is a light blue color with a subtle, repeating pattern of the words 'ATARI', 'COMPUTER', and 'ENTHUSIASTS'.

MAP

MARCH, 1984

Mike Dunn & Jim Bumpas, Editors



Sydney Brown: KONG
a fantastic new game from Australia

News and Reviews

by Mike Dunn, Co-Editor

This month we continue having some very nice games. Sydney Brown from Australia has sent a number of very fine games from Australia for us. The first is **KONG** which is of commercial quality, as are many of his games. If you have a compiler, the game might be as good as any on the market. Another fine game from Stan Ockers, as usual very nicely done, is **ACTION!** This game is also a very nice climbing type game. Also in **ACTION!** is a Demo program from the author of **ACTION!**, Clint Parker. More programs in **PILOT**, and some machine language utilities.

I notice the last issue of **Softside** not only doesn't have anything at all for Atari, there are no listings at all — no reason given either. Since most of us subscribe to Softside for the programs, and there are no programs, I wonder what it all means. I received a very beautiful book from Reston/ Ashton-Tate, **Through the Micromaze, a Visual Guide from Ashton-Tate**, by Wayne Creekmore (\$10). An outstanding work of art, it is a beginners guide to computers and their applications. Designed for the business computer user, I could recommend it for any one.

For the first time since I have had an Atari, I am writing an article on a non-Atari computer. When we began the ACE Newsletter about 4 years ago, I had to write a simple word-processor since none for the Atari had been released. Using the DOS as an Editor and a simple BASIC program for a text formater, the first issues of ACE were hatched. About 9 months later, the first wordprocessor for the Atari was developed, **Text Wizard** by DataSoft. This very easy to use, versatile program became the mainstay for us. About 6 months later came **Letter Perfect**, a more powerful program, but which uses non-Atari DOS files, so Text Wizard remained the best for the newsletter. About a year and a half ago, Stan Ockers sent us **TinyText**, the first public domain text editor particularly designed to send in articles for the newsletter on cassette. This has been gradually upgraded by Stan and others to a much more powerful wordprocessor. **AtariWriter** was released last year, and is now the one I use the most for the newsletter, although I still prefer Letter Perfect for longer papers. I now have the Austin Franklin 80 column board version, and having 80 columns is a nice advantage.

Now I have an entirely new kind of peripheral for my Atari. A **NEC 8201A** Lap computer, very similar to the Radio Shack Model 100. This is a small notebook size machine with a built in 40 column by eight line LCD screen, a very nice keyboard, and several built in programs, including a nice text editor. It is powered by re-chargeable batteries, and using CMOS memory, your files stay in place when the machine is turned off. It includes a fine terminal program for communicating with a modem (not included as in the Radio Shack) or with another computer, a very powerful BASIC, and a fine cassette based storage system using filenames and searches your cassette to find the program. Any cassette recorder can be used, but the one designed for it even has a highspeed search function! Another option is a 32K bubble memory cartridge which acts as a memory disk drive. It can be removed and will hold its files for 6 months without additional charging.

What does all this have to do with my Atari? I find the screen on the desk is a more natural way to write and I can carry the unit around and write in my office or wherever. Then, using a RS-232 "null" cable (a modem cable with leads 2 and 3 reversed on one end), I can load the files right into my Atari for final Editing and printing. The easiest way to do this is to use Atari Writer, and "Load" from "R1:", sending the file from the NEC using the built in telecom program. Very easy and very fast. After using this nice portable machine, I think this is what the next generation of home computers will be like — much more handy than the big monsters we all have! A truly useful item.

You can now get an official **ACE Iron-On Patch** from us. George Suetugu took the official ACE logo given to user groups by Atari and our cover for the April 1983 issue, and made iron-on patches. One will be included for free with each order from the exchange library, or \$1.00 for extras. Get them from our librarians, Ron and Aaron Ness, 374 Blackfoot, Eugene, OR 97404.

BUMPAS REVIEWS

More on the new drives:

With the help of the folks at Computer Palace and my friend Nick Chrones, I've had the opportunity to play around with the 3 new drives: the **ASTRA 1620**, the **TRAK AT-D2**, and the **INDUS GT**. I'm personally using the Indus, but my opinion of the other two drives has improved over the past couple of weeks.

I'm not going to discuss the compatibility problems caused by commercial software which use illegal entry points to the operating system. I think the Indus is a little more compatible than the other two, but I admit this opinion is 2d hand. I am going to discuss compatibility problems between the drives in double density mode. In single density mode each of the drives can read and boot a disk formatted and written with any of the other drives.

In double density mode, I have found some problem booting disks on one drive which were formatted and written on another drive. I did not discover any problem in this area on the Astra. And disks formatted and written on the Astra seem to boot fine on either the Trak or the Indus. And disks formatted and written on the Trak seem to boot perfectly well on the Indus. However, several disks formatted and written on the Indus failed to boot on the Trak. We tried several operating systems, including DOS 2.0, DOS XL versions 2.2 and 2.3, and MYDOS version 3.5.

We found we could boot a DOS on the Trak and then read files on another disk. These files run just fine. Next, we formatted a disk and wrote the TADS modified DOS 2.0 (explained in the Trak documentation). A disk formatted and written according to the Trak documentation boots and runs fine on each drive. My conclusion is the Trak is slightly less compatible in the double density mode than the other two drives. If you experience any compatibility problems, just boot up the Trak according to its documentation, and then read in files from the incompatible disk separately.

The Astra and the Indus both provide the user with a version of DOS XL. The Astra comes with version 2.3 and complete documentation. The Indus comes with version 2.2 and almost no documentation, and the information provided has some errors. I've heard the Indus people will provide full documentation to users requesting it. I've made my request, but have not received it yet. There are differences between the two versions. Version 2.3 with the Astra has four additional files: DOSXL.XL with 58 sectors, and 3 command files of one sector each: NOVERIFY.COM, VERIFY.COM, and RS232FIX.COM.

The Indus comes with a disk containing a word processor produced by Elcomp. They also promise to send a spreadsheet and database manager, but these were not included with the Indus when I bought it. If you are considering buying the Indus and the software is an inducement to you, I advise you to think again. Buy the Indus ONLY because it's the drive you want.

It is a nice drive. It's the quietest of all 3. The front panel buttons permit you to protect an unprotected disk, to cycle through 3 density modes (810 single, 815 double, and 1050 dual), to display the track being read, and the error number of any error detected by the drive. The Astra provides only a busy light. The Trak provides lights to show single or double density mode and the track being read. Each of the drives will automatically switch to the mode used by a disk inserted, but the mode of the Indus can be altered by using the switch on the front panel. The others cannot do this, although all three provide software control over the density modes. The Trak and Indus have dip switches in the rear panel to select the drive number from 1-4.

The power switch on the Indus is in the rear (the others are in the front). This is inconvenient, and the power cord connection is next to the switch on the outside edge. Its connector is not very positive, so I find myself disconnecting the power when trying to turn the power on. The front panel is pretty full, but there should be room for a power switch someplace. The Indus also provides a fancy plastic lid which closes over the front of the drive. This probably helps keep dust out of the drive, but you have to remember to use it.

Advanced Programming Tools

(Tricky Tutorial no. 14, by Educational Software, 4565 Cherryvale Ave., Soquel, CA, \$30)

This is an excellent aid for learning to program better. The 51-page manual takes you step-by-step, explaining the use of the **USR** function.

Seven routines are provided, with complete documentation of all the coding required to produce the subroutines. These routines may be used in programs you write. All they ask is for you to give them credit if you use them.

The tutorial is helpful if you want to create and use other machine language routines in your programs. The TT#14 disk also contains a very good character editor and another program called "LINKBAS".

Sydney Brown: KONG

```

2)
10001 CB=PEEK(106)-4:POKE 106,CB:GOSUB
20000:A=CB*256:FOR B=0 TO 511
10002 IF B>431 OR B>327 AND B<360 THEN
READ D:POKE A+B,D:GOTO 10010
10005 POKE A+B,PEEK(57344+B)
10010 MEXT B:POKE 54279,CB
10020 FOR M=CB*256+512 TO CB*256+1024:
POKE M,0:MEXT M:POKE 53256,0:POKE 5325
7,0
10030 POKE 53248,81:POKE 53249,89:POKE
53250,126:POKE 53251,52
10040 FOR M=521 TO 536:READ A,B:POKE C
B*256+M,A:POKE CB*256+M+128,B:MEXT M
10041 FOR M=774 TO 783:READ A:POKE CB*
256+M,A:MEXT M
10050 C1$="~~~~\n\$\$+!$d\$\$";C2$="~~~~+!$"
\$\$+!$d\$\$";L1$="~~~~+!$d\$\$";L2$="~~~~+!$d\$\$"
L3$="~~~~+!$d\$\$"
10051 R1$="~~~~+!$d\$\$";R2$="~~~~+!$d\$\$";R3$="~~~~+!$d\$\$"
L4$="~~~~+!$d\$\$";J$="33I":H$="~~~~+!$d\$\$";K$="~~~~+!$d\$\$"
L5$="~~~~+!$d\$\$"
10055 VT=PEEK(134)+256*PEEK(135):AT=PE
EK(140)+256*PEEK(141):OF=256*CB+896-AT
:U3=INT(OF/256):U2=OF-256*U3
10061 POKE VT+2,U2:POKE VT+3,U3:POKE V
T+4,128:POKE VT+5,0:POKE VT+6,128:POKE
VT+7,0
10100 POSITION 0,10:? #6;"T R E S Y S
T A R T";
10110 IF PEEK(53279)<6 THEN 10110
10120 SOUND 0,0,0,0:SOUND 2,0,0,0
10500 GRAPHICS 17:POKE 708,136:POKE 70
9,26:POKE 710,222:POKE 711,90:POKE 712
,0:POKE 756,CB
10510 POKE 559,46:POKE 53277,3:POKE 70
4,40:POKE 705,48:POKE 706,78:POKE 707,
14
10600 GOSUB 20100:GOSUB 20100+100:ML:GO
SUB 20500
10999 RETURN
20000 GRAPHICS 18:POKE 710,228:POKE 71
2,18:FOR M=0 TO 10 STEP 2:POSITION 7,0
:? #6;"K O N C":NEXT M
20010 SOUND 0,0,0,0:POKE 53768,7:POKE
53765,168:POKE 53760,254:POKE 53761,10
8:POKE 53764,127
20099 RETURN
20100 FOR M=2 TO 20 STEP 3:POSITION 0
,M,? #6;"_~_~_~_~_~_~_~_~":NEXT M
POSITION 0,23,? #6;"_~_~_~ a.c.e._~_~"
"
20110 COLOR 94:PLOT 19,23:POSITION 7,0
,? #6;"_~_~_~":POSITION 7,1,? #6;"_~_~"
"
20111 POSITION 19,2,? #6;"_~":POSITION
19,3,? #6;"_~":POSITION 19,4,? #6;"_~"

```

```

20115 POSITION 5,0:? #6;"K":POSITION 5
,1:? #6;"1"
20120 POSITION 0,0:? #6;"W":POSITION
0,1:? #6;"WW"
20199 RETURN
20200 FOR N=8 TO 20 STEP 6:IF N<20 TNE
N X=0:POSITION X,M,:? #6;"W":POSITION X
,M+1:? #6;"W":POSITION X,M+2:? #6;"W"
20205 X=19:POSITION X,M,:? #6;"W":POSIT
ION X,M+1:? #6;"W":POSITION X,M+2:? #6
;"W":NEXT N
20210 FOR M=5 TO 20 STEP 6:N=10:POSITI
ON X,M,:? #6;"W":POSITION X,M+1:? #6;"W
":POSITION X,M+2:? #6;"W":NEXT N
20220 POSITION 2,7:? #6;"W" z z y
z y":POSITION 2,13:? #6;"z" y y z y
z":POSITION 3,19:? #6;"z" y y z y"
20299 RETURN
20300 FOR M=8 TO 20 STEP 6:N=16:POSITI
ON X,M,:? #6;"W":POSITION X,M+1:? #6;"W
":POSITION X,M+2:? #6;"W":NEXT N
20310 FOR M=5 TO 20 STEP 6:N=3:POSITI
ON X,M,:? #6;"W":POSITION X,M+1:? #6;"W
":POSITION X,M+2:? #6;"W":NEXT N
20320 POSITION 4,7:? #6;"y" z y y z y
y":POSITION 4,13:? #6;"y" z y z y z
:POSITION 4,19:? #6;"z" y y y z y z
20399 RETURN
20400 FOR M=2 TO 20 STEP 6:N=19:POSITI
ON X,M,:? #6;"W":POSITION X,M+1:? #6;"W
":POSITION X,M+2:? #6;"W":NEXT N
20410 FOR M=5 TO 20 STEP 6:N=0:POSITI
ON X,M,:? #6;"W":POSITION X,M+1:? #6;"W
":POSITION X,M+2:? #6;"W":NEXT N
20420 POSITION 2,7:? #6;"zz" y y yy z
yy":POSITION 3,13:? #6;"z" yy zz y z
y":POSITION 3,19:? #6;"zz" y y z y z
"
20499 RETURN
20500 FOR M=4 TO 16 STEP 6:FOR NM=1 TO
7
20510 N=INT(RND(0)*20):LOCATE N,M,Z:IF
Z<>32 THEN 20510
20520 POSITION X,M,:? #6;"W":NEXT NM:N
EXT M:RETURN
32000 DATA 16,56,56,120,112,112,224,2
4,196,202,213,213,245,213,74,52
32005 DATA 16,56,56,56,28,28,12,12,14
14,6,6,7,6,2,3
32010 DATA 255,255,255,255,255,255,25
,255,24,36,98,98,98,98,36,24
32015 DATA 60,255,195,255,195,255,195
68,24,36,98,98,98,98,36,24,12,12,8,54
54,8,219,219
32020 DATA 0,0,0,0,0,0,255,129,255,
29,129,129,255,129,129,56,16,254,186,
86,40,40,108

```

```
32030 DATA 255,255,48,24,12,6,255,255,  
255,255,6,12,24,48,255,255  
32050 DATA 0,0,0,6,0,15,0,62,0,255,3,2  
53,7,254,15,252,29,120,31,176,31,192,3  
1,192,248,192,240,224,192,240,32,32  
32060 DATA 28,93,73,127,28,62,127,20,2  
0,54  
32760 DATA 28,62,127,127,63,31,15,7,3,  
1,0,0
```

**Steve Monn:
THE GREEN MACHINE**

Carl Schwartz:MEASURE
PILOT program from Cleveland ACE

```

1 POS:5,5
2 T:Hi, I'm a measuring program..
3 T:
4 T:Who are you? \
5 A:$NAME
6 POS:5,15
7 T:Ok, $NAME lets go...
8 :Pick the length of my line in inches
9 . (and press RETURN)
9 PA(NR<1) :220
10 R:-----
11 *MEASUREOVER UNDEF
12 R:-----
13 *MEASURE E(NR>0):
14 C:NR=?\6+1
15 C:NR=NR+15
16 R:----- Adjust the number(15)
if your TV is not a 13in -----
17 GR:CLEAR
18 GR:TURNT0 90      Ioriz
19 C:NR=?\7*10-15
20 GR:TURNT090;GOTO-65,NR ;DRAW NR
21 GR:TURNT090;GOTO-65,NR+1 ;DRAW NR
22 *REDO E(NR>1):
23 , T: NRH_BIG (1 2 3 4 5 or 6)
24 , A:NR
25 , NR:NR
26 , C:NR<>NR :NR=NR+1
27 , JN:TRYMORE
28 , J(NR>4):*DONE End of ?
29 , NY:*GOOD
30 , J(NR<11):*MEASURE
31 , E:
32 *TRYMORE T:TRY AGAIN $NAME
33 , PA:30
34 , J:REDO
35 R:-----
36 *GOOD
37 T:GOOD ANSWER
38 C:NR=NR+1
39 C:NR=0
40 *LOOP S0:NR
41 , C:NR=NR+1
42 , J(NR<31):*LOOP
43 S0:
44 E:
45 R:-----
46 *DONE S0:NR
47 C:NR=(10-(2*NR))*10
48 T:$NAME, MISSED NR and got NR 2 2
H1 \
49 PA:150
50 J(NR>0):*REPEAT
51 T(NR=0): YOU REALLY MEASURE UP! $NAME
52 J(NR=0):*REWARD
53 C:NR=NR+1
54 E:
55 R:-----
56 *REWARD GR:QUIT
57 POS:5,5
58 T:OK, $NAME, LETS PLAY A DRAWING GAME
59 :Tell me three things...
60 PA:220
61 POS:5,18
62 T: (Use numbers and press RETURN)
63 PA:100
64 #D GR:CLEAR
65 C:NR=0
66 T:Length to draw (1-100)
67 A:NR
68 GR:DRAWNR
69 T:Turn Angle (1-90)
70 A:NR
71 GR:GOTO 0,0;TURNTO NR;DRAW 25;TURN
-135;DRAW 5;TURN180;DRAW5;TURN90;DRAW5
72 T:Number of trips (10-200)
73 A:NR
74 GR:CLEAR; GOTO 0,0;TURNTO 0
75 *REPETITION S0:NR,NR
76 , C:NR=?\3 Irandom colors
77 , GR:PEONYELLOW
78 , GR:NC=1:PEONYELLOW
79 , GR:NC=2:PEONYELLOW
80 , GR:DRAWNR;TURN180;GOTO;TURN270+NR
;G0 1
81 , C:NR=NR+1
82 , J(NR>NR):*REPETITION
83 S0:0,0
84 T:$NAME'S TURTLE RETURN #LONG #RTRI
P\
85 R:-----
86 *REPEAT PA:60
87 S0:
88 T: Again ?(Y,N)\A
89 A:
90 M:Y
91 JN:MEASUREOVER
92 T:50 long, $NAME.....
93 PA:120
94 E:
95 R:-----
96 R:by Carl Schwartz 5/83
97 R: Designed for pre-schoolers
98 R: adjust line LENGTH for your TV
99 R:PO.BOX 52, KINGSVILLE, OHIO 44048
100 R:-----

```

Ken Waible: DICE PROBABILITY

```

1 REM ****
2 REM * ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIATS *
3 REM * 3662 VINE MAPLE *
4 REM * EUGENE, OR 97405 *
5 REM * $10.00 YEAR *
6 REM ****
7 REM ****
8 REM ** DICE PROBABILITY *
9 REM ** BY *
10 REM * KEN E. WAIBEL *
11 REM * FEB. 1984 *
12 REM ****
13 C=1:GOSUB 600
14 CLR
15 ? "K":REM Number of rolls
16 ? :? :"Display individual dice rolls"
17 SYES/NO":;GOSUB 500
18 ? :? :"How many dice rolls";
19 INPUT NUM:NUMBER=NUM+NUMBER
20 IF R=89 THEN POKE 201,2
21 FOR X=1 TO NUM
22 REM ROLL DICE
23 DICE1=INT(RND(0)*6+1)
24 DICE2=INT(RND(0)*6+1)
25 TOTAL=DICE1+DICE2
26 REM Adds the die
27 IF R=89 THEN PRINT TOTAL,
28 GOSUB TOTAL+60
29 NEXT X
30 GOTO 100
31 REM COUNT DICE
32 T2=T2+1:RETURN :REM TOTAL=2
33 T3=T3+1:RETURN :REM TOTAL=3
34 T4=T4+1:RETURN :REM Etc. etc.
35 T5=T5+1:RETURN
36 T6=T6+1:RETURN
37 T7=T7+1:RETURN
38 T8=T8+1:RETURN
39 T9=T9+1:RETURN
40 T10=T10+1:RETURN
41 T11=T11+1:RETURN
42 T12=T12+1:RETURN
43 REM PRINTING
44 C=3:GOSUB 600
45 POKE 201,10
46 ? :? :"What now?"
47 ? " 1-Print to screen"
48 ? " 2-Print to printer"
49 ? " 3-Add more dice rolls"
50 ? " 4-Start over"
51 ? " 5-End Program"
52 GOSUB 500
53 IF R=49 THEN OPEN #2,8,0,"S":GOTO 150
54 IF R=50 THEN OPEN #2,8,0,"P":GOTO 150

```

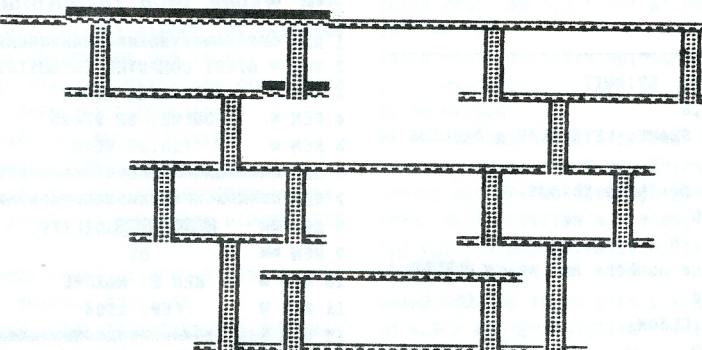
GOTO Page 12

MEN=3 SCORE=0

Rnd=125

HI=0

LVL



Stan Ockers: RATS REVENGE

; RATS REVENGE IN ACTION!
; by Stan Ockers

; ACE Newsletter, 3662 Vine Maple
; Eugene, OR 97405 \$12 year
; March 1984

MODULE : RATB' REVENGE

CARD pbase,dest,source,cnt,source1,
source2,source3,score,maxscore,
rndpts,dlist=560
BYTE ppage,stk,v,w,col,row,
vcount=9D40B,console=53279,dir,all,
dir1,blkflg,dir2,
dir3,pos,post,post2,post3,
level,dotsent,hitflg,men,smflg
BYTE ARRAY ratup=[0 66 126 68 24 66
126 90 126 68 36 182 0 0],
ratrt=[0 32 56 100 62 16 58 126 120
120 120 44 48 0],ratlt=[0 4 28 54
124 8 92 126 36 30 28 52 12 0],
cursor=[34 28 8 26 34],bugup=[0 36
24 60 126 68 24 66 90 66 24 66
0 0],bugr=[0 48 32 128 100
56 16 56 68 36 44 48 0],
buglt=[0 12 4 30 54 28 8 28 28 60
28 52 12 0],allowed=[132],saveall=[133],
hortop=[3 32 32 32],vertop=[3 32
6 32],allbot=[3 7 6 7],newall=[3
135 6 135],herbot=[3 7 7 7],
dots[132],blk=[3 32 32 32],
newbot=[3 135 135 135]
INT delx,dely,delx1,dely1,delx2,
dely2,delx3,dely3,x,y,x1,y1,
x2,y2,x3,y3,ax,ay

PROC Init()

SetBlock(allowed,132,0)
SetBlock(dots,132,1)
FOR cnt=1 TO 10
DO allowed(cnt)=76 0D
allowed(0)=72 allowed(1)=68
RETURN

PROC Paint()
BYTE ARRAY fil=[65 85 65 85 65 85 65
85 0 0 0 255 51 204 255 0 0 255 255
0 24 68 68 24 0 255 255 0 0 0 0
0 0 255 255 0 0 0]
ppage=Peak(106)-16 pbase=ppage+256
Poke(54279,ppage) Poke(539,42)
Poke(53277,3) Poke(53248,x) Poke(784,92) RETURN
Poke(785,202) Poke(766,250) Poke(767,186)
SetBlock(pbase+1024,1024,0)
Moveblock(pbase,57344,1024)
Poke(736,ppage)
FOR cnt=0 TO 39
DO Poke(pbase+cnt+560,fil(cnt)) 0D
FOR cnt=6 TO 28
DO Poke(dlist+cnt,4) 0D
RETURN
PROC Ding(BYTE pitch,CARD dly)
BYTE loud
CARD wait
FOR loud=0 TO 15
DO Sound(0,pitch,10,15-loud)
FOR wait=1 to dly DO 0D 0D 0D
Endret()
RETURN
PROC Tracks() ; leave trail
BYTE newpos,z
IF newpos>pos THEN
newpos=pos v=pos MOD 12 w=pos/12
z=Locate(3+v+2,2+w+2)
IF z=7 THEN
rndpts+=25 Position(21,0)
PrintC(rndpts)
Position(3+v+2,2+w+2) dotscnt=-1
IF allowed(pos)&64 THEN Print(newbot)
ELSEIF allowed(pos)&16 THEN
Print(newall) FI FI FI
RETURN
PROC Move() ; move the bug
stk=Stick(0) ! 15

IF (y-10) MOD 16=0 AND (x-22) MOD 12=0 THEN
row=(y-42)/16 col=(x-56)/12
pos=12*row+col all=allowed(pos)+15
IF stk=0 AND dir=4 THEN dir=8
ELSEIF stk=4 AND dir=8 THEN dir=4
ELSEIF stk=1 AND dir=2 THEN dir=1
ELSEIF stk=2 AND dir=1 THEN dir=2
FI
IF (dir & 3)>0 THEN stk=& 12
ELSE stk=& 3 FI
IF (stk & all)>0 THEN dir=stk FI
WHILE (dir & all)=0
DO dir=dir RSH 1
IF dir=0 THEN dir=8 FI OD
IF dir=1 THEN delay=-1 delx=0
source=bugup
ELSEIF dir=2 THEN delay=1 delx=0
source=bugup
ELSEIF dir=4 THEN delay=0 delx=-1
source=buglt
ELSEIF dir=8 THEN delay=0 delx=1
source=bugrt FI FI
x+=delx y+=delay
PROC Move1() ; decide rat #1 movement
BYTE num,col1,row1
IF (y1-10) MOD 16=0 AND (x1-22) MOD 12=0 THEN
row1=(y1-42)/16 col1=(x1-56)/12
pos1=12*row1+col1 all=allowed(pos1)
IF Rand(15)>10-level THEN
ax=x-x1 IF ax<0 THEN ax=-ax FI
ay=y-y1 IF ay<0 THEN ay=-ay FI
IF ax>ay THEN
IF (x1>x) THEN dir1=4
ELSEIF (x1<x) THEN dir1=8 FI
ELSE
IF (y1>y) THEN dir1=2
ELSEIF (y1<y) THEN dir1=1 FI FI
FI
WHILE (dir1 & all)=0
DO dir1=dir1 RSH 1
IF dir1=0 THEN dir1=8 FI OD
IF dir1=1 THEN delay1=-1 delx1=0
source1=ratup
ELSEIF dir1=2 THEN delay1=1 delx1=0
source1=ratup
ELSEIF dir1=4 THEN delay1=0 delx1=-1
source1=ratlt
ELSEIF dir1=8 THEN delay1=0 delx1=1
source1=ratrt FI FI
RETURN
PROC Move2()
BYTE num,col2,row2
IF (y2-10) MOD 16=0 AND (x2-22) MOD 12=0 THEN
row2=(y2-42)/16 col2=(x2-56)/12
pos2=12*row2+col2 all=allowed(pos2)

```

IF Rand(15)>10-level THEN
  ax=x2 IF ax<0 THEN ax=-ax FI
  ay=y2 IF ay<0 THEN ay=-ay FI
  IF ax>ay THEN
    IF (x2>x) THEN dir2=4
    ELSEIF (x2<x) THEN dir2=8 FI
  ELSE
    IF (y2>y) THEN dir2=2
    ELSEIF (y2>y) THEN dir2=1 FI FI
  FI
  WHILE (dir2 & all)=0
  DO dir2=dir2 RSH 1
    IF dir2=0 THEN dir2=8 FI OD
  IF dir2=1 THEN delay2=-1 delx2=0
    source2=ratup
  ELSEIF dir2=2 THEN delay2=1 delx2=0
    source2=ratup
  ELSEIF dir2=4 THEN delay2=0 delx2=-1
    source2=ratlt
  ELSEIF dir2=8 THEN delay2=0 delx2=1
    source2=ratrt FI FI
  RETURN

PROC Move3()
  BYTE nuc,col3,ren3
  IF (y3-18) MOD 16=0 AND (x3-22) MOD 12=0 THEN
    row3=(y3-42)/16 col3=(x3-56)/12
    pos3=12*row3+col3 all=allowed(pos3)
  IF Rand(15)>10-level THEN
    ax=x3 IF ax<0 THEN ax=-ax FI
    ay=y3 IF ay<0 THEN ay=-ay FI
    IF ax>ay THEN
      IF (x3>x) THEN dir3=4
      ELSEIF (x3>x) THEN dir3=8 FI
    ELSE
      IF (y3>y) THEN dir3=2
      ELSEIF (y3>y) THEN dir3=1 FI FI
    FI
    WHILE (dir3 & all)=0
    DO dir3=dir3 RSH 1
      IF dir3=0 THEN dir3=8 FI OD
    IF dir3=1 THEN delay3=-1 delx3=0
      source3=ratup
    ELSEIF dir3=2 THEN delay3=1 delx3=0
      source3=ratup
    ELSEIF dir3=4 THEN delay3=0 delx3=-1
      source3=ratlt
    ELSEIF dir3=8 THEN delay3=0 delx3=1
      source3=ratrt FI FI
  RETURN

PROC Update() ; all players move
  DO UNTIL vcount=128 OD
  Poke(53248,x) dest=pbbase+1024+y
  MoveBlock(dest,source1,14)
  x1+=+delx1 y1+=+delay1 Poke(53249,x1)
  dest=pbbase+1280+y1
  MoveBlock(dest,source1,14)
  PROC Bkgd() ; draw ladders & girders
    Graphics(0) Poke(732,1)
    FOR pos=0 TO 131
    DO x=pos MOD 12 y=pos/12
      all=allowed(pos)
      Position(3*x+2,2*y+1)
      IF all&48 THEN Print(vertop)
      ELSE Print(blk) FI
      Position(3*x+2,2*y+2)
      IF all&64 THEN Print(horbot)
      ELSEIF all&32 THEN Print(vertop)
      ELSEIF all&16 THEN Print(allbot)
      ELSE Print(blk) FI OD
    FOR x=1 TO 38
    DO Position(x,23) Put(13) OD
  RETURN

PROC Dly(CARD maxcnt)
  CARD cnt
  FOR cnt=1 to maxcnt DO OD
  RETURN

PROC Savemaze()
  Open(1,"D:MAZE",8,0)
  FOR pos=0 TO 132
  DO saveall(pos+1)=allowed(pos) OD
  saveall(0)=132 PrintD(1,saveall)
  Close(1)
  RETURN

PROC Cleanscr() ; get rid of players
  FOR cnt=53248 TO 53251
  DO Poke(cnt,0) OD
  RETURN

PROC Openup() ; pos. above permitted
  IF allowed(pos-12) & 112 THEN
    allowed(pos-12)=22 allowed(pos)=21
  FI RETURN

PROC Opendn()
  IF allowed(pos+12) & 48 THEN
    allowed(pos+12)=21 allowed(pos)=22
  FI RETURN

PROC Openl()
  IF allowed(pos-1) & 80 THEN
    allowed(pos-1)=28 allowed(pos)=24
  FI RETURN

x2+=+delx2 y2+=+delay2 Poke(53250,x2)
dest=pbbase+1536+y2
MoveBlock(dest,source2,14)
x3+=+delx3 y3+=+delay3 Poke(53251,x3)
dest=pbbase+1792+y3
MoveBlock(dest,source3,14) Tracks()
  PROC Openrt()
    IF allowed(pos+1) & 80 THEN
      allowed(pos+1)=24 allowed(pos)=28
    FI RETURN

PROC Setbar() ; create screen
  BYTE key
  x=78 y=61 source=cursor
  dest=pbbase+1024+y Poke(764,255)
  SetBlock(pbbase+1024,256,0)
  Position(0,0)
  Print("1 2 3 4 5 Save")
  Print("6 Exit (arrows)")

PROC Rats()
  DO
  Poke(53248,x) dest=pbbase+1024+y
  MoveBlock(dest,source,5)
  DO key=Peek(764)
    UNTIL key<255 OD
  SetBlock(dest,5,0) Poke(764,255)
  IF key=15 AND y<181 THEN y+=+16
  ELSEIF key=14 AND y>61 THEN y=-16
  ELSEIF key=7 AND x<178 THEN x+=+12
  ELSEIF key=6 AND x>78 THEN x=-12
  FI
  IF consol=5 THEN EXIT FI
  col=(x-58)/12 row=(y-45)/16
  pos12=row+col
  Position(3*col+2,2*row+1)
  IF key=31 THEN
    Print(blk) allowed(pos)=0
    allowed(pos-1)=247
    allowed(pos+1)=251
    allowed(pos-12)=253
    allowed(pos+12)=254
  ELSEIF key=38 THEN
    allowed(pos)=64 allowed(pos-12)=253
    Openrt() Openit() Opendn()
    Print(vertop)
  ELSEIF (key=26) THEN
    allowed(pos)=32 allowed(pos-1)=247
    allowed(pos+1)=251 Openup()
    Opendn() Print(vertop)
  ELSEIF (key=24) THEN
    allowed(pos)=16 Openup() Opendn()
    Openit() Openrt() Print(vertop)
  FI
  Position(3*col+2,2*row+2)
  IF key=31 THEN Print(blk)
  ELSEIF key=38 THEN Print(horbot)
  ELSEIF key=26 THEN Print(vertop)
  ELSEIF key=24 THEN Print(allbot)
  FI
  IF key=29 THEN Savemaze() FI
  IF key=27 THEN EXIT FI
  DO UNTIL PEEK(764)<>key OD
  RETURN

```

```

RETURN

PROC Rate()
  DO
    Graphics(18) Position(4,1)
    PrintD(6,"Rate" REVERSE")
    Position(6,3) PrintDE(6," " REGULAR")
    PrintD(6,"option CREATE")
    Position(9,5) PrintDE(6,"PLAY OWN")
    Position(8,7)
    PrintD(6,"select LVL 023456789")
    Position(8,9) PrintD(6,"start")
    Position(1,11) Poke(dlist+16,6)
    PrintD(6,"WRITTEN IN ASSEMBLY")
    w=3 level=1 ownflg=0 score=0
    maxscore=0 rndpts=0 men=3
    DO
      DO UNTIL (consol&7)<>7 OD
      IF consol=3 THEN position(7,w)
        PutD(6,J2) w=w+1
        IF w=6 THEN w=3 FI
        Position(7,w) PutD(6,170)
        Ding(121,600)
      ELSEIF consol=5 THEN
        Position(10+level,7)
        PutD(6,48+level) level=level+1
        IF level=10 THEN level=1 FI
        Position(10+level,7)
        PutD(6,176+level) Ding(60,600)
      ELSEIF consol=6 THEN
        IF w=4 THEN Init() Bkgd()
          Paint() Setbar() Cleanscr()
          EXIT
        ELSEIF w=5 THEN Loadmaze()
          ownflg=1 Play() ownflg=0
          Cleanscr() EXIT
        ELSEIF w=3 THEN
          Play() Cleanscr() EXIT
        FI
      FI
    DO UNTIL (consol&7)=7 OD OD OD
  RETURN

```

Meeting

**Weds March 14, 7:30
South Eugene High
Cafeteria**

C. Mueller: String Search Routine

```

00010    .OR #0600
00020 ADTOT    .EQ #CD  ;ADR(TOT$)
00030 ENDTOT   .EQ #CD  ;END TOT$ #0000
00040 ADSS    .EQ #D6  ;ADR(SS$)
00050 LENSS   .EQ #D8  ;LEN(SS$)
00060 POSIT   .EQ #D4  ;POSITION
00061 ;
00062 ;PULL ARGUMENT PASSED BY USR
00063 ;
00070 PLA      ;# ARGUMENTS
00080 PLA      ;MSB/ADR(TOT$)
00090 STA ADTOT+1
00100 PLA      ;LSB/ADR(TOT$)
00110 STA ADTOT+1
00120 PLA      ;MSB/LEN(TOT$)
00130 CLC      ;CLR CARRY FLAG
00140 ADC ADTOT+1 ;ADD THE ADR(TOT$)
00150 STA ENDTOT+1
00160 PLA      ;MSB/ADR(SS$)
00170 ADC ADTOT
00180 STA ENDTOT
00190 PLA      ;LSB/ADR(SS$)
00200 STA ADSS+1
00210 PLA      ;LSB/ADR(SS$)
00220 STA ADSS
00230 PLA      ;THROW AWAY MSB OF LEN(SS$)
00240 PLA      ;LEN(SS$)
00250 STA LENSS
00260 LDA #0
00270 TAY
00280 STA POSIT ;INITIALIZE TO TOT$(0,0)
00290 STA POSIT+1
00300 NEXTCH LDY #0 ;INCREMENT TOT$(X,X)
00310 INC POSIT
00320 BNE CHEKCH
00330 INC POSIT+1
00340 CHEKCH LDA (ADTOT),Y ;COMPARE CHARACTER OF TOT$ WITH SS$
00350 CMP (ADSS),Y
00360 BNE NOMATCH ;GO TO NOMATCH IF NOT EQUAL
00370 INY      ;IF EQUAL INCREMENT Y TO CHECK NEXT CHARACTER
00380 CPY LENSS ;IF Y=LEN(SS$) THE MATCH IS FOUND
00390 BEQ FOUND
00400 BNE CHEKCH ;GO CHECK NEXT CHARACTER
00410 NOMATCH LDA ADTOT+1 ;CHECK IF WE ARE AT THE END OF TOT$
00420 CMP ENDTOT+1
00430 BNE INC ;IF NOT THEN GO INCREMENT TOT$
00440 LDA ADTOT
00450 CMP ENDTOT
00460 BEQ NOFIND ;IF THE END OF TOT$ THEN MATCH NOT FOUND
00470 INC ADTOT ;INCREMENT TOT$
00480 BNE NEXTCH ;START LOOKING FOR A MATCH AT NEXT TOT$(X,X)
00490 INC ADTOT+1
00500 BNE NEXTCH ;START LOOKING FOR A MATCH AT NEXT TOT$(X,X)
00510 NOFIND LDA #0
00520 STA POSIT ;RETURN A ZERO TO BASIC
00530 STA POSIT+1
00540 FOUND RTS      ;RETURN POS. OF SS$ IN TOT$ TO BASIC
0 REM BY C. MUELLER, HUNTSVILLE ACE
10 DIM TOT$(20000),55$(255)
20 TOT$="THIS IS A TEST OF A MACHINE LANGUAGE STRING SEARCH"
30 FOR I=1 TO 8
40 TOT$(LEN(TOT$)+1)=TOT$+I
50 NEXT I
60 TOT$(LEN(TOT$)+1)="ATARI COMPUTER"
70 ? "ENTER SEARCH STRING;:I.55$"
80 POS=USR(1536,ADR(TOT$),LEN(TOT$),AD
R(555),LEN(55$))
85 IF POS=0 THEN ? "STRING NOT FOUND";
END
90 ? ?:?"";55$;"=TOT$(";POS;");POS+
LEN(55$)-1;""
95 END
100 FOR I=1 TO LEN(TOT$)
110 IF TOT$(I,I+LEN(55$)-1)=55$ THEN 1
50
120 NEXT I
130 STOP
150 ? I

```

Greg Menke: FUNCTION KEY (from Feb issue)

```

10 ;Function Key Assembly listing (no0) ch11d01.s
20 ;
30 ;V2.0 12/12/83
40 ;By Greg Menke
50 ;
60 ;
70 ;Listing in Atari Assembler Editor
80 ;format.
90 ;
0100  +=$600
0110  LDA 12      ;get Lo byte of DOSINI
0120  STA DOSINI ;and store it
0130  LDA 13      ;now get the Hi byte
0140  STA DOSINI+1 ;and store that too
0150  JSR INIT    ;initialize VBI and new RESET vector
0160  RTS      ;return to DOS
0170  BRK      ;end
0180  ;
0190  DOSINI .BYTE 0,0
0200  INDEX .BYTE 0
0210  ;
0220  RESET JSR INIT    ;fix the RESET vector
0230  JMP (DOSINI) ;and return
0240  ;
0250  INIT LDX #ROUTINE/256      ;Hi byte of VBI
0260  LDY #ROUTINE&255      ;Lo byte of VBI
0270  LDA #6      ;use immediate mode
0280  JSR #E45C    ;and start it
0290  LDA #RESET&255      ;Lo byte of new RESET address
0300  STA 12      ;store it
0310  LDA #RESET/256      ;Hi byte of new RESET address
0320  STA 13      ;store that

```

```

0560 ;
0570 SELECT LDX #SELCT/256 ;Hi byte of SELECT message
0580 LDY #SELCT&255 ;Lo byte
0590 JMP PRINT ;print it
0600 ;
0610 OPTION LDX #OPTON/256 ;Hi byte of OPTION message
0620 LDY #OPTON&255 ;Lo byte
0630 ;
0640 PRINT STX $CC ;store Hi byte
0650 STY $CB ;store Lo byte
0660 LDA #0 ;clear the print index
0670 STA INDEX ;get the offset
0680 LOOP LDY INDEX ;now get the character
0690 LDA ($CB),Y ;add i to offset
0700 INC INDEX ;is this the last one?
0710 CMP #0 ;yes, exit
0720 BEQ DONE ;no, print the character
0730 JSR #F6A4 ;go back and get another character
0740 JMP LOOP ;exit
0750 DONE JMP EXIT ;several keys are down, so exit
0760 ;
0770 STRT .BYTE 156,"You hit START",0 ;Hi byte of START message
0780 SELCT .BYTE 156,"You hit SELECT",0 ;Lo byte of same
0790 OPTON .BYTE 156,"You hit OPTION",0 ;go print it
0800 ;exit VBI
0810 ROUTINE LDA 763 ;get ATASCII code for last character
0820 CMP #1 ;is it CTRL A?
0830 BNE EXIT ;no, exit
0840 ;get CONSO1 value
0850 CMP #7 ;is anything pressed?
0860 BEQ EXIT ;no, exit
0870 CMP #6 ;is START pressed?
0880 BEQ START ;yes, goto START routine
0890 CMP #5 ;is SELECT pressed?
0900 BEQ SELECT ;yes, goto SELECT routine
0910 CMP #3 ;is OPTION pressed?
0920 BEQ OPTION ;yes, goto OPTION routine
0930 JMP EXIT ;several keys are down, so exit
0940 ;
0950 START LDX #STRT/256 ;Hi byte of START message
0960 LDY #STRT&255 ;Lo byte of same
0970 JMP PRINT ;go print it

```

Dice Probability (Con't)

```

128 IF R=51 THEN GOTO 38
130 IF R=52 THEN RUN
132 IF R=53 THEN END
134 ? :? :? :GOTO 100
150 ? "R":TRAP 184
152 ? :? :?
154 PRINT #2;"NUMBER","APPEARED","EXPE
CTED"
156 PRINT #2;2,T2,(INT((1/36)*NUMBER+0
.5))
158 PRINT #2;3,T3,(INT((2/36)*NUMBER+0
.5))
160 PRINT #2;4,T4,(INT((3/36)*NUMBER+0
.5))
162 PRINT #2;5,T5,(INT((4/36)*NUMBER+0
.5))
164 PRINT #2;6,T6,(INT((5/36)*NUMBER+0
.5))
166 PRINT #2;7,T7,(INT((6/36)*NUMBER+0
.5))
168 PRINT #2;8,T8,(INT((5/36)*NUMBER+0
.5))
170 PRINT #2;9,T9,(INT((4/36)*NUMBER+0
.5))
172 PRINT #2;10,T10,(INT((3/36)*NUMBER
+0.5))
174 PRINT #2;11,T11,(INT((2/36)*NUMBER
+0.5))
176 PRINT #2;12,T12,(INT((1/36)*NUMBER
+0.5))
178 PRINT #2;" "
180 PRINT #2;" " Dice rolls = ";NU
M
182 PRINT #2;" " Total rolls= ";NU
MBER
184 CLOSE #2
190 GOTO 100
500 REM OPEN KEYBOARD
502 OPEN #1,4,0,"K:"
504 GET #1,R
506 CLOSE #1
508 RETURN
600 SETCOLOR 1,C,2:SETCOLOR 2,C,10:SET
COLOR 4,C,10
610 RETURN
1000 SAVE "D:DICEPROB"
10000 REM SAVE ROUTINE

```

*F*lash: *Education Software 4565 Cherryvale, Soquel, CA 95073* makers of the excellent "Tricky Tutorials" is giving a 30% discount if you mention ACE.

THE GREEN FLASHER

(reprinted from the December, 1983 issue of Frederick ACE Newsletter)

If you read the last article, you now have (and I hope understand) a technique to change the screen colors in GR0. I mentioned a "secret" reason for using one of the Atari's interrupt timers to initiate the routine. The secret, if you haven't guessed, is to include the option to cause the cursor to flash. Just think. A green screen with a flashing cursor — this is starting to sound like the option list on a 3270.

The new portion of the program will work using memory location 755 (\$02F3 in hex). This location is mainly used to control the visibility of the cursor. POKE 755 with 1 and the cursor disappears. POKE a 0 back in and the cursor reappears. A side effect of the invisible cursor is the loss of the "inverse video" capability. As a side note — try POKEing 755 with 5. Not very useful, but interesting.

If we can change 755 back and forth between 1 and 0, we can cause the cursor to "flash". We already have a time driven interrupt in the screen color routine. We only need to add logic to flip the value of location 755 to flash the cursor. Keep in mind the side effect I mentioned. Any inverse video characters will flash along with the cursor. You may or may not appreciate this, but that's how it is.

I want to clear up some confusion from the "Green Screen" program. To get a good green on black you will have to lower the brightness level. At normal brightness the display is white on green.

This routine is relocatable. If you have some favorite area to stash machine language code, you merely need to change the address the BASIC loader uses to stash the DATA values. You must also change the address which gets loaded into the address vector for Timer2.

Listing 1 is the BASIC loader. Listing 2 is the Assembly language code equivalent. Please use standard care and save the program before you attempt to run it as any error in the DATA statements will likely cause the dreaded lockup. When you run the BASIC program, you will be asked for the color of your choice. Respond with the number of the color of your choice from the standard list of color values. You will next be asked to enter the number of flashes per second you desire. My preference is 5, but you can experiment and find your own favorite.

The Green Flasher will continue unaffected by GRAPHIC commands and DOS calls. It may be simply detached by pressing SYSTEM RESET. If detached, it may be restarted by X = USR(1536). Good luck and happy flashing.

— Steve Monn

Rats' Revenge

I haven't had time to put any special touches on this game, but it should provide a good foundation for any climbing-chase type games. The same approach could be used in a Pac-Man style game. In fact, that's the way this game started out but I think the climbing style is more interesting.

The screen is divided into a matrix of positions, (12X11) where changes of direction can take place. The array 'allowed' holds bytes describing which directions are permitted. The lowest four bits contain 'ones' for permitted directions which are compliments of the normal joystick directions. The high four bits indicate which type of girder/ladder combination is present at any intersection.

You can create your own scene and save it to disk. The 'play own' option will then recall it and you can play it at any level you select. I haven't figured out how to save under a user provided filename yet.

It is quite challenging to provide a proper chase algorithm. In the one I wrote, the rats seem to either ignore you or latch on for dear life. Once they caught on, they were impossible to shake and it was impossible to complete the screen if there was more than one dead end.

I compromised by skipping part of the algorithm at random times. The rats are made to increase their I.Q. with level by comparing a random number to one dependent on the present level. You may notice all three rat moving routines are identical and they should be able to be replaced by one using indexed variables. I tried, but each time I did, the program compiled but locked up when run. Rather than blame the language, I simply took this as an indication I'm still learning to use Action!

— Stan Ockers

KONG

This March issue of ACE contains the BASIC listing for the game of KONG. Kong has kidnapped your fiancee and he has placed her at the top of a partly constructed building and it is up to you to rescue her.

On your way up, you must jump over bricks and barrels while trying to avoid all the barrels Kong throws at you. Use Joystick 1 to make the man walk and climb the ladders. To jump, press the fire button and push the joystick in the direction you want to move. Jumping is not permitted while on a ladder or on a yellow oil slick.

Bonus points are scored by reaching the top of each level and points are scored for each ladder climbed. Each successive level becomes harder and scores higher points and larger bonuses.

Hint: The barrels do not go all the way to the end of a level before coming down, so keep an eye on them.

— Sidney Brown

ML SORT

(reprinted from the November, 1983 Huntsville Atari Users Group News Letter)

I want to show you how to use a machine language subroutine in BASIC. I've chosen a search routine which is short, easy to use, and extremely fast. Get your assembler/editor out and type in Listing 1. I use Synassembler. If you use the Atari Assembler/Editor, the only changes you need to make are the equates which use an "=" instead of "EQ." and Line 10, which should be changed to:

00010 * = \$0600
Assemble the program, correct any syntax errors and save the source file. The save the object file from locations \$0600 to \$0660 according to your assembler manual's instructions.

Take a look at the source code listing. See all the PLA instructions at the beginning of the routine? They are taking the information off the stack as placed there by a USR call from BASIC. This means we must know exactly what parameters are to be passed from BASIC and their order. This routine is written to find a small string in a large string by comparing the Small search string to the same number of characters in the large string, starting with the first character in the large string and incrementing the start by one until a match is found or the end of the large string is reached. We want the BASIC program to pass the addresses and lengths of the large string and the search string to our ML routine. So we pull these from the stack (notice the order of most significant byte and least significant byte). We use the length of the large string (TOT\$) to calculate the end of the string (ENTOT). Once we have these addresses and lengths the actual routine to do the search is very simple. The value returned to BASIC when the RTS is executed is the value at zero page addresses \$D4 and \$D5, which I am calling POSIT. Therefore we place the position of the search string within the large string into these locations and return to BASIC. If a match is not found we place a zero into \$D4 and \$D5.

Listing 2 is a test of the subroutine from BASIC. Reboot with BASIC, go to DOS and binary load the object file (cassette users refer to the method found in the Atari Assembler/Editor Errata Manual for loading object files). Go back to BASIC and type in Listing 2. Save the program before execution since a problem in the ML routine can cause a lockup. The BASIC program creates a long string of the same words over and over, and then puts "ATARI COMPUTER" at the end. Notice the parameters which must be passed in the USR call at Line 80. Run the program and search for "ATARI". It should take less than one second. Then type "GOTO 100" to see the same search performed with the BASIC search routine at Line 100. Be prepared to wait awhile.

This little routine can be used in almost any program requiring a search. You could use it to search for anything in memory — not only within a string. Just pass the starting address for the search and the number of bytes to search in place of the ADR(TOT\$) and LEN(TOT\$). You can find multiple occurrences of your search string by using the USR function over and over again — just changing the starting point for the search.

Of course, to use this search you must binary load the object file into memory first.

— C. Mueller

TIDBITS

Reading the Keyboard

This month I'll cover a few more PEEKs and POKEs and relate some methods of getting input from the computer in a program.

If you have an application where you want to have the cursor disappear, you can just POKE location 752 with a 1. To turn the cursor back on, simply POKE a 0 into 752.

In many programs I have written, I have found it necessary to read the keyboard in such a way as to produce immediate action upon pressing a key. If a simple INPUT statement is used, the computer will wait for the return key to be pressed before it continues. I know of two ways to avoid this delay. The first is a little more complicated than the second, and has both advantages and disadvantages. This method involves first OPENing an input/output control block for input from the keyboard. Then one simply uses a GET# statement to read the keyboard. This example program illustrates the technique:

```
10 OPEN #1,4,0,"K":REM open the keyboard for input
20 GET #1,A:REM the computer will put the ASC value of the key
pressed into the variable A. Note: It will not print anything on the
screen.
30 IF A = ASC("Y") THEN BRANCH ACCORDINGLY:REM compare the
keypress to what you desire.
40 GOTO 20:REM loop back for more
```

The advantage of this method is it gives us the ASC value of the keypress, so we don't need to do any translating. The disadvantage is the computer will stop and wait for a keypress, which may not be any good in some situations.

The other method requires the use of the internal code of keypress location (764). First you find out the internal code of the key you want the program to react to, then you simply test the value in location 764 to see if it is the one you want. To find the internal code, use this simple immediate-mode program:

```
FOR A = 0 TO 1 STEP 0?: PEEK(764):NEXT A
```

Now push the keys you want to use, and record the values the computer prints. Then in your program you just need to PEEK 764, compare it to the value you wanted, and branch accordingly. With this method the computer will never stop executing the program to wait for the keypress.

Reading the console keys (START, SELECT, and OPTION) is similar to the second method of reading the keyboard. In fact, one does the same thing exactly except the location used is 53279. Incidentally, to clear location 764, POKE it with a 255, and to clear location 53279, POKE it with an 8. To make the little speaker inside the computer click, POKE 53279 with 7.

Next time I promise to deal with disk drive tricks.

— Dale Lutz
Canada

BYTES, BITS & NYBBLES

(reprinted from the August, 1983 issue of Keeping PACE)

I wish to present a tidbit of Machine Language (ML) and call your attention to a little known and poorly documented method of incorporating ML subroutines into a BASIC program. Let's start with a very simple ML routine and look at the various ways it may be incorporated into a BASIC program. The ML routine listed here does nothing more than add 5 to a value INPUT from the keyboard. It only works for single byte values (0-255) and wraps around so $255 + 5 = 4$ (this is called MOD 256, but that's another story).

Machine Assembler Language
Key Strokes to Produce

Decimal	ML code	Hex code	m n e m o n i c
104	PLA	68	(lower)[h]
24	CLC	18	[CTRL][X]
104	PLA	68	(lower)[h]
104	PLA	68	(lower)[h]
105	ADC	69	(lower)[i]
05	-05	05	[CTRL][E]
141	STA	9D	(Atari key) [CTRL][M]
00	\$00	00	[CTRL][.]
06	\$06	06	[CTRL][F]
96	RTS	60	[CTRL][.]

The general form of a USR function is: $Z = \text{USR}([\text{address of start of ML subroutine}], [\text{1st parameter}], [\text{2d parameter}], [\text{etc.}])$. When the USR call is made the OS loads the stack with the return address, passes the parameters (two bytes for each), and caps it off with a single count byte of the number of parameters passed. The above subroutine pulls off the count byte (PLA) from the stack, clears the carry bit of the status register (CLC) so we start with a clean slate, pulls off the most significant byte of the parameter passed from the stack (PLA) (we'll discard this value), pulls off the least significant byte of the parameter (PLA), adds (ADC) 5 (#05) to the lo byte of the parameter passed, stores the result (STA) into memory location 1536 (\$00)\$06), and returns from the subroutine.

To establish the ML routine in a BASIC program, you are generally instructed to do some variation of one of the following:

```
1. POKE it into a reserved memory area — i.e., page 6.
10 GOSUB 100
15 GRAPHICS 0:POSITION 5,5? "INPUT A ":"INPUT A
20 Z = USR(1537,A)
30 POSITION 5,10? A;" + 5 = ";PEEK(1536)
40 END
100 FOR X = 1 TO 10:READ BYTE:POKE 1536 + X,BYTE:NEXT
X:RETURN
101 DATA 104,24,104,104,105,5,141,0,6,96
```

2. POKE it into a space above your BASIC program (making these changes to Program 1):

```
5 DIM E$(1):REM E$ should be the last thing dimensioned
20 Z = USR(ADR(E$) + 1,A)
100 FOR X = 1 TO 10:READ BYTE:POKE ADR(E$) + X,BYTE:NEXT
X:RETURN
```

3. Assign it to a string by program control (making these changes to Program 1):

```
5 DIM E$(10)
20 Z = USR(ADR(E$),A)
100 FOR X = 1 TO 10:READ BYTE:E$(X,X) = CHR$(BYTE):NEXT
X:RETURN
```

If you've used ML subroutines at all you are most likely familiar with these methods. Now try this:

```
10 GRAPHICS 0:POSITION 5,5? "INPUT A ":"INPUT A
20 Z = USR(ADR(" ... * ... "),A):REM " ... * ..." is the sequence of key
strokes as indicated in the table above
30 POSITION 5,10? A;" + 5 = ";PEEK(1536): ?: ?
```

40 END

You'll notice I PEEKed the answer. Normally "Z" will hold the answer (taken from 212,213 — lo,hi), but in this case "Z" is equal to the memory location of the first byte of the ML subroutine within the BASIC Statement Table. After all, if you've got the byte sequence set up in the BASIC Statement Table why write it out again in some other memory area? In addition, if you need to call the ML subroutine elsewhere in a program you can use the value of "Z" to locate it — $\text{USR}(Z,A)$.

On pages 10-17 of "De Re Atari", number 19 states "Small assembly routines can be stored in USR calls" and gives one example. That's it — the total documentation of this elegant and memory-efficient method for calling short ML routines.

The advantages of this method are two fold: It saves time and memory by using the routine from the BASIC Statement Table (since you don't have to POKE the subroutine into memory); and the variable used to make the USR call ($Z = \text{USR}(\text{ADR}(" ... "))$) can be used to make a later call ($X = \text{USR}(Z)$).

— John David McFarland III

VECTORS & ADDRESSES

(reprinted from the November, 1983 issue of the Atari Computer Club of OKC)

Now it's show & tell time for my latest how-to in ML. In spite of all the great things I said about the Synassembler last time, I am NOT selling my Assembler-Editor cartridge (Atari). I still have use for a VERY compact, simple Assembler in incorruptable ROM. This means it rarely crashes when I change an operating parameter.

As I've mentioned before, almost everything in the Atari Operating System (OS) is vectored. The reasoning is that if a ROM must be changed (revised) then every piece of software jumping to the locations may not be able to find the place it's supposed to go. Either the routine has been moved, or since it is not common to leave much extra space in ROM, it may have been moved around somewhat to make room for another routine which had to be added or fixed. The solution in the 400, 600, 800, 1200, 1400 series is to have pointers. The pointers (called vectors) are places holding the locations of the actual routines or hardware addresses. These are "guaranteed" not to be moved by Atari. So, even if it IS redundant to jump to a location merely to tell you to go to another location, there is a method to the madness. If something does get changed on the destination end (to which the vector points) the original software program doesn't need to be changed, just the address in the vector. All the original program has to do is remember where the vector is and go there, Atari will take care of the rest.

Another side benefit of this is there is really no reason a person who is aware of the operations can't change the vectors to point to their own routines first. For example, when a key is pressed, it generates an interrupt request to the CPU. This means "stop what you're doing and checkout the keyboard if you're not too busy." Normally, the CPU will then jump through or go to a vector telling it where the keyboard routine is in the OS. HOWEVER, put your own routine in, change the pointer (or vector) to point to it, and instead you can go to your own routine.

WHY? As it infers in De Re Atari (the inspiration for this stuff): He who controls the keyboard controls the system. If the system goes to your routine 1st, your routine (another name for a short program) can change anything about keyboard input. My program simply checks to see if the key pressed is CTRL-W. If not, it goes back to where the original vector went. If it makes it through the 1st "filter" (IS a CTRL-W) then the rest of the routine executes.

Again, WHY? The reasoning behind this involves modems and me. At 300 baud I have no problems — if you want to stop everything from going by for a moment, you hit CTRL-S (called X-Off). This suspends the sending of data until you hit CTRL-Q (X-On) to go on. Fine! Now I work with a larger system using 1200 baud and 80 column lines. At 1200 baud the words are appearing on the screen (via the phone) 4x as fast and long lines of text don't end at the edge of the screen but wrap around, making some words hard to read. By the time I can look down at the keys and put my slow fingers on the CTRL and S keys, what I wanted to read — I said I'm slow! — is gone. So I redefined one of the keys as above so that if CTRL-W is pressed, it'll get through the filter and cause my code to check flags (to see what was sent last) and then tell the CPU (lie to it) and tell it the key pressed was either a CTRL-S or CTRL-Q (always opposite of the one sent last time). The next benefit of this is I can now hit one key and the modem stops sending. Hit another and it resumes. Now, why go to all this trouble? Well, of course this is only a how-to. You don't have to do anything as insignificant as this. It's elegant and you don't have to modify or even know what the program does. Just pick any key it doesn't normally use and redefine it.

Only 3 other things ought to be mentioned. When the OS gets (and responds to) one of these interrupts it 1st pushes whatever value it was working on before interruption (the accumulator) onto a temporary storage location called "the stack". This is just a group of locations used for temporary storage. Before RTI (ReTurn from Interrupt) you should put it back as it was (PLA or PuLi Accumulator from stack). The Atari Assembler reserves 2 memory locations for an address when it sees a label, so what I did was LDA with 8 bits of the Vector destination and put it into part of the space left blank for JMP during the first pass of the Assembler. I then repeated this for the other half of the address (addresses are 16 bits long and the accumulator only 8). This is a very often used method of "moving a vector" because, even if Atari changes the ROMs and destination address, you're still going to wherever the vector said and you don't even have to know what the address is in was. The third note is that none of the codes for the keys are yet ASCII. The OS was in the process of getting info from the keyboard and that info is in the internal form or the actual value produced by the keyboard matrix. As always, there are lots of comments in the code to tell you play-by-play what's going on.

Parting Note: I don't charge for the programs I write in these pages (they're about as sellable as a board with a hole...HEY!...), but if you ever want to use a close derivative of one in your programs, newsletter, or magazine, I just love to see my name in print (I'm a ham), so you might mention 'lil ol me. Thank you.

```
10 ;VKEY.SRC—TOGGLES BETWEEN SENDING CTL-S OR
20 ;CTL-Q (STOP & START FOR TELECOMM) WHEN CTL-W
30 ;(FOR CONTROL-WAIT) IS PRESSED. THIS WORKS BY
40 ;RE-ROUTING KEYBOARD VECTOR
50 ;ADAPTED FROM PG. 8-15 OF DE RE ATARI
60 ;(NOTE THIS IS INTENDED AS AN AUTORUN FILE—NOT
70 ;A BASIC USR CALLED FUNCTION
80 ;CH = $2FC
90 ;KBCODE = $D209
100 ;VKEYBD = $0208
110 ;!!!!NOTICE ORIGIN!!!!
120 ;* = $3FD ;I PUT IT IN CASSETTE BUFFER—IF YOU
130 ;WANT TO USE CASSETTE—BETTER MOVE IT!
140 ;START SEI ;SO WON'T BE BOTHERED WHILE MOVING
150 ;VECTOR (INSURANCE)
160 ;LDA VKEYBD ;STEAL KEY VECTOR
170 ;STA JUMP + 1 ;& PUT IN AT END
180 ;LDA VKEYBD + 1 ;OF MY CODE
190 ;STA JUMP + 2
200 ;LDA #REP&255 ;NOW GET ADR
210 ;STA VKEYBD ;OF MY STUFF
220 ;LDA #REP/256 ;& PUT IN INTERRUPT
230 ;STA VKEYBD + 1 ;VECTOR FOR KEYBOARD
240 ;CLI ;RE-ENABLE KEY INTERRUPTS
250 ;RTS ;BACK FOR REST OF DOS IF AUTORUN FILE—EL
260 ;CRASHO OTHERWISE (BUT ATARI DEBUG
270 ;RECOVERS—SO OK
280 ;TO TEST & USE WITH IT
290 ;*****
300 ;REP LDA KBCODE ;CHK CODE
310 ;CMP #$AE ;CTL-W?
320 ;BNE JUMP ;NAH! SEND IT ON
330 ;LDA FLGB ;SEE WHAT I SENT LAST TIME THROUGH
340 ;EOR #$FF ;FLIP FLAG (DID IT 1ST SO I WOULDN'T
350 ;HAVE TO DO IT FOR EACH CASE AFTER BRANCH)
360 ;STA FLGB ;PUT NEW VALUE BACK! (00 OR $FF)
370 ;BNE STP ;99• OF THE TIME, FLGB WOULD HAVE BEEN
380 ;0 BEFORE XOR, SO I GO TO ROUTINE TO SEND CTL-S
390 ;(DOESN'T MATTER A LOT WHAT FLGB WAS BEFORE
400 ;THOUGH...ALWAYS SEND ONE OR THE OTHER —TOGGLE—
410 ;SO IF IT DOESN'T
420 ;WORK 1ST TIME JUST PRESS CTL-W AGAIN)
430 ;GO LDA #$AF ;IF NOT STP-THEN
440 ;STA CH ;SEND A CTL-Q
450 ;PLA ;RESTORE A REG.(O.S. PUT IT ON STACK WHEN
460 ;INTERRUPT OCCURED)
470 ;RTI
480 ;STP LDA #$BE ;SEND CTL-S
490 ;STA CH
500 ;PLA ;RESTORE A REGISTER (SEE ABOVE)
510 ;RTI
520 ;
530 ;JUMP JMP JUMP ;REAL O.S. VECTOR GETS MOVED TO
540 ;ARG. OF JMP HERE
550 ;FLGB .BYTE 00 ;FLAG BYTE
560 ;THIS IS LOAD 'N' GO VECTOR SO IT WILL START RUN-
570 ;NING AS SOON AS ENTERED BY DOS
580 ;* = $02E0
590 .WORD START
```

TYPESETTING FROM YOUR COMPUTER

ATARI OWNERS: If you have a modem, text editor, and communications program to send ASCII files, you should consider the improved readability and cost savings provided by **TYPESETTING** your program documentation, manuscript, newsletter, or other lengthy text instead of just reproducing it from line printer or daisy-wheel output. Computer typesetting by telephone offers you high quality, space-saving copy that creates the professional image you want! Hundreds of type styles to choose from with 8 styles and 12 sizes "on line." And it's easy to encode your copy with the few typesetting commands you need.

COMPLETE CONFIDENTIALITY GUARANTEED
— Bonded for your protection —
PUBLICATION DESIGN, EDITING, & PRODUCTION

**Editing & Design Services
Inc.**

**30 East 13th Avenue Eugene, Oregon 97401
Phone 503/683-2657**

Best of ACE books

Volume 1 are bound issues of the ACE Newsletter from the first issue, Oct 80 to June of 1982

Volume 2 covers July 1982 to June 1983

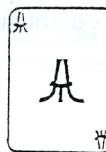
Only \$12 each (\$2 extra for Airmail). Available only from:

George Suetzugu
45-602 Apapu St
Kaneohe, HI 96744

SortFinder 1.2

Composite index of Atari related articles from 5 popular computer periodicals from Apr '81 to June '83, including ACE. Only \$6 for ACE member from:

Jim Carr, Valley Soft
2660 S.W. DeArmond
Corvallis, OR 97333



**ATARI
COMPUTER
ENTHUSIASTS**

3662 Vine Maple Dr. Eugene OR 97405

FIRST CLASS MAIL

COMPUTER 3 PROTOTYPING

Atari Computer Enthusiasts

A.C.E. is an independent, non-profit and tax exempt computer club and user's group with no connection to the Atari Company, a division of Warner Communication Company. We are a group interested in educating our members in the use of the Atari Computer and in giving the latest News, Reviews and Rumors.

All our articles, reviews and programs come from you, our members.

Our membership is world-wide; membership fees include the A.C.E. Newsletter. Dues are \$12 a year for U.S., and \$22 a year Overseas Air-mail and include about 10 issues a year of the ACE Newsletter.

Subscription Dep't: 3662 Vine Maple Dr., Eugene, OR 97405.

**

President Kirk Stockwell
4325 Sean, Eugene, OR 97402 / 503-689-5355
Vice Pres Larry Gold
1927 McLean Blvd., Eugene, OR 97405 / 503-686-1490
Secretary Bruce Ebling
1501 River Loop #1, Eugene, OR 97404 / 503-688-6872
Librarian Ron and Aaron Ness
374 Blackfoot, Eugene, OR 97404 (503)689-7106.
Co-Editor Mike Dunn
3662 Vine Maple Dr., Eugene, OR 97405 / 503-344-6193
Co-Editor Jim Bumpas
4405 Dillard Rd., Eugene, OR 97405 / 503-484-9925
E.R.A.C.E. (Education SIG Editor) Ali Erickson
295 Foxtail Dr., Eugene, OR 97405 / 503-687-1133
E.R.A.C.E. Corresponding Secretary Robert Browning
90 W. Myoak, Eugene, OR 97404 / (503)689-1513

Send 27c stamps or coin (50c overseas) to the Ness' for the new, updated ACE Library List — new in Feb 84!

Bulletin Board

On line 24 hours a day, except for servicing and updating. Consists of a Tara equipped 48K Atari 400 with a TARA keyboard, 2 double-density double sided disk drives with an ATR 8000 interface, 2 double density Percom disk drives, an Epson MX80 printer, a Hayes SmartModem; running the ARMUDIC Bulletin Board software written by Frank L. Huband, 1206 N. Stafford St., Arlington, VA 22201. See the Nov '82 issue for complete details.

On line 24 hours a day, except for servicing and updating. Consists of a Tara equipped 48K Atari 400 with a TARA keyboard, 2 double-density double sided disk drives with an ATR 8000 interface, 2 double density Percom disk drives, an Epson MX80 printer, a Hayes SmartModem; running the ARMUDIC Bulletin Board software written by Frank L. Huband, 1206 N. Stafford St., Arlington, VA 22201. See the Nov '82 issue for complete details.

On line 24 hours a day, except for servicing and updating. Consists of a Tara equipped 48K Atari 400 with a TARA keyboard, 2 double-density double sided disk drives with an ATR 8000 interface, 2 double density Percom disk drives, an Epson MX80 printer, a Hayes SmartModem; running the ARMUDIC Bulletin Board software written by Frank L. Huband, 1206 N. Stafford St., Arlington, VA 22201. See the Nov '82 issue for complete details.